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EDITORIALS

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE MERRITT W. PINCKNEY FROM THE JUVENILE COURT OF CHICAGO

Merritt W. Pinckney was judge of the Juvenile Court of Cook County from September, 1908 until April 1916 when his retirement from the work of that court was made necessary by his physical condition. His friends arranged a reception and banquet in his honor. The gathering was a remarkable testimonial to Judge Pinckney and it also resulted in a very definite appraisal of the work of the Juvenile Court.

There are some public officials whose record is such that it brings no pride to those who are interested in the welfare of the child, but the citizens of Chicago are to be congratulated that after the judge of their children's court had been in office for more than seven years such expressions of opinion concerning him and his work should be written as those which follow.

All the good things said and written cannot be quoted—four have been selected because of the careful attention which should be given to whatever the four authors say; for they are authorities in their various lines:

Miss Julia C. Lathrop: "Nothing could be more fitting than this recognition of the extraordinary service Judge Pinckney has given, first, to Chicago, and, second, to the whole country, by his work in the Juvenile Court of Cook County. A lesser man struggling with ill health might have sought refuge in that court as a bench requiring little mental exertion or judicial training, for so it was regarded in the beginning. Not thus the modern-spirited jurist who sees in the wise discrimination of human needs and child's rights the demand for real acumen and for exacting, laborious work, and for a high use of the judicial mind.

"Under Judge Pinckney the service of the Juvenile Court has been enriched by expedients which were beyond imagination when that court began its work in 1899, and yet all have come naturally and logically. Certain items of this development, however, are especially due to Judge Pinckney's courage and initiative, among them the mothers' pension law, the incorporation of mental examinations as an integral part of the court, and the appointment of a woman assistant to hear girls' cases. No history

of the Juvenile Court movement will ever be complete without recognizing Judge Pinckney's services."

Professor W. I. Thomas: "We all recognize that the normality and efficiency of a society depend on the behavior of its members, but we have been slower in recognizing that the normality and efficiency of the members depend on the behavior of the society toward him. In the main, the Juvenile Court deals with cases in which society is not behaving properly toward the child, and is consequently getting undesirable responses from the child. The older view of this situation was that society had the right to punish the antisocial individual; the newer view is that the antisocial individual has a right to demand that society shall make him a useful and normal member.

"It is evident to all who are acquainted intimately with the methods of the Juvenile Court in Chicago that the latter standpoint has been most consistently and devotedly occupied by Judge Pinckney."

Dean John H. Wigmore: "The methods of the Juvenile Court are to be the methods of all so-called Criminal Courts in the future. The successful demonstration of such methods has been a necessary stage prior to their expansion. Had the experiment failed, the cause of progress would have been set back for many years. Thus the system depended upon the personal element. And it is fortunate for the community, and for the world, that the right man was at hand, for the crucial moment, to consolidate the progress already made and to make the demonstration conclusive.

"That man was Judge Pinckney. And all the annals of our profession will record permanently its gratitude to him for showing that the legal profession is capable of taking its proper part in modern methods of making law synonymous with justice."

Mr. Harry A. Wheeler: "Nobility of character and heroic service, commendable wherever exhibited, are much less to be commended when performed in high places under the stimulus of public opinion than when performed in dark and dreary corners of the earth, or in those quarters of a great city where misfortune and misery seem the common law. It is easier to be brave and to serve under the plaudits of the multitude than to hold tenaciously to a great service of which the multitude is unaware.

"The man whom we honor tonight served in the shadow, in physical weakness, in the heartache which evidences of suffering

bring to a sensitive personality, and I am looking forward to that day of true justice when such names as his shall be written high upon the banners of this nation, and when such service as his shall take rank as the foremost service that can be rendered to one's generation."

The friends of the Juvenile Court of Chicago need not worry about its future. It has too firm a foundation to be easily displaced and the present judge—Victor P. Arnold—is a man who will not only maintain the standards which have already been set, but who has the vision and initiative to bring about an even fuller development.

JOEL D. HUNTER.

ON THE SCHOOL FOR POLICE

It is in part a heritage from our Anglo-Saxon ancestry that we Americans from the beginning of our national life, and earlier, have distrusted the police, the military, and any other organized agency that can interfere with the individual's freedom of movement and thought. This attitude has become conventionalized on our part. We persist in it as a matter of course just as we hold to some of our political and religious prejudices, to which we may never have given serious thought for so much as a moment. This heritage from our remoter ancestors has been strongly re-enforced in America by reason of our manner of living. We have always—certainly until comparatively recent years—been close to the outposts on the frontier. Men have lived far from their neighbors, where a living and subordinate attainments have been won only at the expense of personal, independent prowess. There is a romance about that sort of life, and it is natural that, while we look upon the accomplishments of more or less isolated individuals with a good deal of pride, we should be all the more ready to frown upon police forces which can so easily make our stalwart toe the mark.

It is unfortunate, to put it mildly, that we should, merely as a matter of course, cherish this attitude toward the police forces. This for the sufficient reason that we are rapidly becoming city dwellers, and as such we are beholden to the police in enlarged measure. Perhaps no officials in our city communities are so close as the police to the roots of corruption. Certainly they know, if anybody does, the personnel of the army of crooks and vagrants, and they know the